

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-11, 13, 15, 17-19, 21, 23-25, 27, and 29. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating claims 36 and 37 are allowable if amended into independent form.

Claims 28, 32-35, and 38-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kondoh et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,194,743 (hereinafter "Kondoh").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. The Examiner states "with respect to the layer designated by the independent claims as 'a migration barrier,' this can be read on the double layer 102, 103 in the Kondoh cover figure. Because layer 103 is Au (column 4, lines 45-48), the double layer 102, 103 comprises Au." Claims 28 and 32 are amended to delete Au from the materials listed. Applicants can find no motivation in Kondoh to use materials other than Ni or Au for layers 102 and 103, respectively. Accordingly, claims 28 and 32 are allowable over Kondoh. Claims 33-43 depend from claim 32 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reason.

In view of the above arguments, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (408) 382-0480.

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